

**Open Minutes of the Social and Community Development Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday, 8 August 2018 at 9 am in the Council Chamber**

<u>Present:</u>	Chairman:	Hon Anthony Green (Hon TG)
	Deputy Chairman:	Hon Cyril Leo (Hon CL)
	Members:	Hon Derek Thomas (Hon DT) Hon Gavin Ellick (Hon GE) Hon Kylie Hercules (Hon KH)
	Non-Voting Members:	Mrs Stephanie Jones, Director of Safeguarding (SJ) Mrs Nicole Shamier, Government Economist (NS)
	Secretary:	Miss Nicole Plato, Executive Assistant (Corporate Services) (NP)
	Invited:	Mrs Victoria Kellett, Assistant Director of Safeguarding (VK) (<i>as part of her induction</i>) Miss Nikita Crowie, Legal Officer (NC) – <i>for item 1 only</i>

Hon TG welcomed all to the meeting with a special welcome extended to NC.

1. Charities (Amendment) Bill

NC had presented a draft amended Charities Bill in October 2017 seeking to tighten the reporting requirements. Slight delays have been experienced since. The oversight of the Charities ordinance had to be deferred to the EDC but did not happen as the Council Committee ToRs are still to be refined.

NC presented a new amendment to the legislation to legislate for safeguarding provisions in line with the WASS recommendations. The onus will be placed on the Charities to do safer recruiting when working with vulnerable clients etc. A £20 fine will be imposed on those who fail to comply with the requirements set out in the ordinance. The Commission felt that this price was fair and that the Charities on Island could cover the incurred costs.

The Committee agreed the Charities (Amendment) Bill in principle subject to further comments within a week following which the legislation as drafted may be forwarded to Executive Council for approval to be published for consultation and be presented to Legislative Council in due course.

(Action: Members/NC)

Consultation was held with Charities earlier on in the year therefore they are aware of the changes to the legislation with the new safeguarding provisions and agreed with the proposed way forward. Committee therefore agreed for sessions on the radio stations to be held and an accompanying press release on the amendments to the ordinance. Members can join the radio sessions as well.

NP/Hon Tony Green to complete the decision document and send to the promotor and AG.

(Action: NP/Hon TG)

2. Draft Disabled Facilities Grant Policy

SJ advised that this policy had been presented to the SCDC in September 2017 but had not been formally agreed. It was developed by the former Director of Safeguarding and the Occupational Therapist. Safeguarding has a small budget to provide home adaptations. Future discussion will need to be held as to where this budget should sit. Additional comments

on the policy have been received from the new Occupational Therapist and NS which will be taken into account.

The budget for home adaptations is £50k. Each grant is up to the value of £3000 to help disabled adults and children with the cost of providing adaptations and facilities to enable them to continue to live in their own homes for as long as possible. Provision of the grant is based on assessed needs and set criteria outlined within the policy.

Comments from the Committee were as follows:

- Do we have the resources to manage that expenditure? Could ENRD take on this work? *SJ felt that they could get more value from ENRD overseeing the works. A meeting with ENRC can be held to take this forward.*
- ENRD has limited capacity and we only have 8 months left in this year to spend this money and the private sector is looking for jobs.
- It is ok to use the private sector but we need to think about their rates as well, looking at value for money.
- ENRD's role in this could be to project manage to ensure that work is carried out as it should be and will ensure efficiency to the project so that there is no unnecessary delays etc. with the necessary safeguards in place. Hon CL advised of a case where there was a year's delay on doing something simple and agreed to check whether it had been done to date and if not would send the details to SJ and VK to take forward.

(Action: Hon CL/SJ/VK)

Committee agreed the draft policy in principle, subject to further comments from the Committee within a week to be sent to the SJ/VK.

(Action: Members)

SJ/VK to check with ENRD if they would project manage the works for home adaptations. This is to be actioned soon so that money can be spent within this financial year.

(Action: SJ/VK)

3. Confirmation of open minutes from the meeting held on 11 July 2018

The minutes from the open session of the meeting held on 11 July were confirmed.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 SHNT (Amendment) Ordinance

SOD to check on the status of the draft amended ordinance and advise the Committee accordingly.

(Action: SOD)

4.2 Draft Proposal for an Outline Information Bill

NP to issue consultation letters to the large private sector employers. A meeting with the Chamber of Commerce is scheduled to be held on 4 September where all of the large employers will be present.

(Action: NP)

4.3 Equality of Arms

Hon KH said that this issue had already been raised with HE in terms of seeking FCO funding to support the Public Solicitor's office and HE had said that this does not meet the criteria. The Public Solicitors office is also doing all they can to progress with the long term plan for staffing etc. It was also noted that Aldhelm Garner is a qualified Criminal lawyer therefore that need will be covered by the Public Solicitor's office.

There being no further business, the open session closed at 10.10 am.



Minutes Approved

Chairman

Date: 12 September 2018